

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND



VIOLENT CRIME PROGRAM 2005 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

March 1, 2006

I am pleased to present this 2005 Annual Report of the work that the men and women of the United States Attorney's Office are doing, along with our local, state, and federal partners, to reduce violent crime in Maryland.

Police officers and federal law enforcement agents put their lives at risk every day to pursue violent criminals and keep Maryland's neighborhoods safe for citizens and visitors. The U.S. Attorney's Office is proud of the work that we do to support their efforts. More than one-third of the federal felony cases prosecuted in Maryland involve illegal firearms, and nearly three-fifths of our felony defendants face violent crime or drug-dealing charges.

In the following pages, you will find:

- ✓ summaries of significant federal violent crime prosecutions;
- ✓ statistics reflecting the office's violent crime cases;
- ✓ explanations of other work that we do to deter violent crime; and
- ✓ descriptions of the strategies that we will pursue in 2006.

In 2006, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced two significant developments in our violent crime program. These changes represent a continuation of the federal commitment to work with state and local authorities to reduce gun violence in Maryland.

First, we adopted a comprehensive written strategy, called "Maryland EXILE," to reduce gun violence in our state's most violent jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Prince George's County. (www.usdoj.gov/usao/md) A similar program is in effect in Wicomico County. (www.wicomicoexile.com) In other Maryland counties with less gun crime, federal authorities provide assistance to local prosecutors and police when it is required in particular cases.

Maryland EXILE is about deterring crime, not just prosecuting criminals. Drawing on the principles of the nationwide Project Safe Neighborhoods program (www.psn.gov), EXILE involves strong partnerships, effective strategic planning, regular training, community outreach, and accountability. The EXILE partners are pursuing traditional law enforcement strategies along with innovative approaches that are tailored to the challenges of reducing gun crime in Maryland. Maryland EXILE combines law enforcement efforts, community action and revitalization, and public awareness. The success of the strategy depends on a partnership among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and on the dedication and determination of community activists, educators, and civic and religious leaders.

The fundamental principle of EXILE is to achieve the goal and communicate the message that *any felon who carries a gun in Maryland will go to jail*. Honest and law-abiding citizens want safe neighborhoods for themselves and their children, so we must ensure that criminals serve *hard time for gun crime*. We must empower law-abiding citizens who want to rid their neighborhoods of criminals who spread violence and despair.

Our EXILE program is unified, meaning that it will involve every local, state and federal government agency and every community organization, educational organization, and civic and religious organization that can help. We must work together under a unified strategy that uses every tool available to us to reduce gun crime.

The EXILE program also is comprehensive, meaning that it is not just about law enforcement. We are pulling all of our ideas together in one overall program that addresses prosecution, prevention, revitalization and education.

Making sure that today's criminals serve hard time in jail is only one part of the program. The larger objective is to deter crime so that fewer criminals carry guns tomorrow. Our goal is to have less business. And no repeat customers.

The second major change in the U.S. Attorney's Office was to establish a Violent Crime Section in our Baltimore office. This is the first time that Maryland has established a unit of federal prosecutors to focus solely on violent crime.

The Violent Crime Section will join with our partners to implement Maryland EXILE; pursue our federal anti-gang strategy; and work with our Narcotics Section to dismantle drug-dealing organizations. In addition, every Assistant U.S. Attorney and every other employee of the U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to assist in prosecuting violent crime cases along with the other important cases that they handle.

I am grateful to the dedicated and professional staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office for their work to reduce violent crime in Maryland, and to our federal, state and local partners for the challenging work that they do every day to make Maryland more safe and secure.

Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

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VIOLENT CRIME CASE SUMMARIES

The following is a brief summary of the indictments, convictions, and sentences obtained in just some of the most significant violent crime cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2005. The achievements described in the following pages are the direct result of our ongoing partnership with our colleagues in local, state, and federal law enforcement. These cases exemplify their tireless dedication to ridding our communities of violent criminals and gangs. An indictment is not a finding of guilt; an individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

GANGS/VIOLENT DRUG ORGANIZATIONS

Dismantling violent gangs and drug crews has been and continues to be one of the primary missions of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Working with our local, state, and federal partners – including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – we are aggressively investigating and prosecuting entire violent organizations and other cases involving acts of violence by gang members. Our goal is to identify and prosecute not only those gang members who actually commit acts of violence, but also those who order that the acts of violence be committed, those who assist in the commission of the acts of violence, those who assist in covering up the acts of violence, and those who recruit new members to join the gangs. As these cases illustrate, we have used, and will continue to use, every weapon in the federal law enforcement arsenal – including the RICO statute and the federal conspiracy laws – to take down gangs, from the lowest-level members to the highest-ranking leaders.

U.S. v. DARRELL ALSTON, ET AL.

From 2003 until 2005, Darrell Alston and Anthony Chandler were members of a drug organization known as “Jigga,” which sold both heroin and crack cocaine in East Baltimore. Between 2003 and 2004, the “Jigga” organization sold over 30 kilograms of heroin. The organization used firearms to protect its drugs and drug proceeds and attempted to bribe and intimidate witnesses to prevent them from providing information to law enforcement. On April 19, 2005, Chandler and Alston were indicted federally, and additional charges were filed in a superseding indictment returned on July 19, 2005. On September 7, 2005, Chandler pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute heroin and crack cocaine. Later that month, a federal jury convicted Alston of conspiracy to distribute heroin and crack cocaine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense, and two counts of witness intimidation. In November 2005, Chandler was sentenced to 24 years and 4 months in prison, while Alston was sentenced to a term of life plus five years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LIONEL GILLIAM, ET AL.

In June 2005, a superseding indictment was returned charging Lionel Gilliam, Sean Simpson, and Norberto Quinones with offenses arising from their operation of a violent drug-trafficking organization that distributed narcotics through open-air drug markets in the Hilmar neighborhood of Prince George's County, Maryland. The indictment alleged that the defendants committed robberies, assaults, carjackings, and other violent acts to prevent members of the conspiracy and others from providing information to law enforcement or otherwise interfering with the organization's operations. All three defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics and conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. Gilliam was charged with four murders, one of which resulted from a carjacking, and one non-fatal shooting. Simpson was also charged with the carjacking/murder and the non-fatal shooting. Additional carjackings and a carjacking conspiracy were charged in superseding indictments filed in early 2006. Those charges are pending. The FBI, the Prince George's County Police Department, and the Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

LEXINGTON TERRACE BOYS

In February 2005, Karmaan Hawkins, a member of the Lexington Terrace Boys, was sentenced to 15 years in prison following his guilty plea to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. On April 25, 2005, Marcus Baskerville, another Lexington Terrace Boys member, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. These cases were a continuation of a two-year investigation and prosecution that has resulted in the dismantling of one of the most violent drug gangs in the recent history of Baltimore. The Lexington Terrace Boys had terrorized the residents of their West Baltimore neighborhood by committing dozens of murders and numerous other violent crimes, including attempted murders, witness tampering, arson, and armed robbery. In all, a total of nine gang members have been successfully prosecuted in federal and state court, and the investigation has cleared at least 25 homicides. Federal charges against a tenth gang member are pending. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation, with assistance from the Baltimore City Housing Authority Police Department and the Baltimore County Police Department.

MS-13 INVESTIGATION

On August 23, 2005, 19 members of La Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, were charged with participating in a RICO conspiracy. MS-13 is a national and international criminal organization with approximately 10,000 members regularly conducting gang activities in at least ten states and the District of Columbia, Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. The MS-13 gang has been functioning in the United States since at least the 1980s. In the United States, the gang originated in Los Angeles, California, where MS-13 members engaged in turf wars for the control of drug distribution locations. MS-13 quickly spread to states across the country, including Maryland. MS-13 is one of the largest street gangs in the United States. Gang members actively recruit

members, including juveniles, from communities with a large number of immigrants from El Salvador.

The charged defendants were members of three different Maryland “cliques” of MS-13 operating in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, which worked together cooperatively to commit acts of violence. The indictment alleges that MS-13 members were required to commit acts of violence to maintain membership and discipline within the gang and against rival gangs. The indictment charges that the purposes of the MS-13 racketeering enterprise included preserving and protecting the power, territory and profits of the gang through the use of intimidation, violence – including assaults and murder – and threats of violence and keeping victims in fear of the gang and in fear of its members and associates through violence and threats of violence. Specifically, the indictment alleges that from at least 2002 through August 2005, the defendants conspired to commit murder, kidnapping, robbery, and obstruction of justice. The indictment alleges that the defendants were responsible for six murders and five attempted murders in Maryland and Virginia. The charges are pending. The ATF’s Regional Anti-Gang Enforcement (“RAGE”) Task Force and the Prince George’s County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

NORTH AVENUE BOYS

On February 7, 2005, five members of the violent street gang known as the “North Avenue Boys” – Shawn Henry, London King, Tyrell Fields, Ryan Ayers, and Dante Faulkner – pleaded guilty to various charges arising from their participation in a drug-trafficking conspiracy and a series of related shootings and murders. On November 21, 2005, Corey Grant, another gang member, pleaded guilty to using, carrying, and discharging firearms in relation to a drug trafficking offense and carjacking. The defendants operated or worked for a drug distribution network that was responsible for selling large quantities of heroin, cocaine, and crack cocaine in East Baltimore from 1996 to June 2004. The indictment alleged that the defendants engaged in a series of acts of violence against members of a rival drug gang known as the “Project Boys.” The feud between these two rival gangs spawned at least five murders and numerous non-fatal shootings between November 2000 and May 2001.

In April 2005, Faulkner was sentenced to 40 years in prison, Henry was sentenced to 30 years in prison, and King, Fields, and Ayers each received 25 years in prison. Grant was later sentenced to 20 years in prison. Following their sentencings, three of the defendants – Faulkner, Henry, and Fields – were re-indicted on witness-retaliation charges based on their beating of a cooperating witness in a holding cell immediately following their February guilty pleas. All three recently pleaded guilty to those charges. In all, 24 members of these two gangs have been convicted on federal drug conspiracy or related firearms charges in separate federal prosecutions by the U.S. Attorney’s Office and have received sentences of between 20 and 40 years in prison, and several others pleaded guilty to similar charges in state court. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

PIONEER CITY BOYS

On September 7, 2005, six members of a violent drug organization known as the “Pioneer City Boys” and one of their drug suppliers were indicted on charges of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and firearms offenses. The indictment alleged that from 2002 to 2005, the defendants distributed cocaine and crack cocaine in the Pioneer City, Still Meadows, and Meade Village communities in Severn, Maryland. The indictment charged that the defendants used violence and threats of violence to retaliate against competing drug traffickers and to deter community members from cooperating with law enforcement. The specific acts of violence alleged in the indictment include the September 2004 shooting of an Anne Arundel County police officer. The ATF, the DEA, the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Annapolis Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. SAMUEL PRICE, ET AL.

On December 1, 2005, seven members of the “Gilmor Boys,” a violent narcotics organization that operated at Baltimore and Gilmor Streets in West Baltimore and that is linked to several homicides, were indicted by a federal grand jury. The charges in this nine-count indictment, which are pending, include conspiracy to distribute heroin, distribution and possession with intent to distribute heroin, and related firearms charges based on guns recovered from one of the organization’s stash houses. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. HOWARD RICE, ET AL.

In February 2005, a federal grand jury indicted Howard Rice, Raeshio Rice, and 11 others with crimes arising from their operation of a large narcotics-trafficking enterprise in the Park Heights area of Baltimore City over a 10-year period. The 20-count RICO indictment charges that from 1995 through 2004, the defendants operated a racketeering enterprise that was responsible for the distribution of more than 1,500 kilograms of cocaine and more than 30 kilograms of heroin, as well as multiple contract murders. Two murders and two attempted murders are charged in the indictment. In November 2005, a superseding indictment was returned adding new gun and drug counts against one of the defendants. The charges are pending. The DEA, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TYREE STEWART, ET AL. (OPERATION ARIZONA)

In June 2005, a federal jury convicted Ernest Roberts of conspiracy to distribute marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and crack cocaine. Roberts was the last of 29 defendants convicted as part of the investigation and prosecution of a large, lucrative marijuana-trafficking enterprise led by Tyree Stewart. The conspiracy was responsible for the distribution of approximately 20,000 pounds of a high-quality form of marijuana known as “Arizona” in West Baltimore between 1998 and 2003. Twenty-eight other defendants pleaded guilty to charges ranging from

obstruction of justice and money laundering to narcotics conspiracy and continuing criminal enterprise.

In October 2005, Roberts was sentenced to a term of 20 years in prison. Several other co-defendants were also sentenced in 2005, including Robert Smith, who was sentenced in March 2005 to 15 years and 8 months in prison; Damon Deshields, who was sentenced in March 2005 to 14 years in prison; and Bernard Davis, who was sentenced in August 2005 to 8 years and 4 months in prison.

As a result of information developed during this investigation, more than a dozen murders have been solved by the Baltimore Police Department. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

ARSON

U.S. v. THOMAS SWEATT (SERIAL ARSONIST)

In May 2005, following a two-year investigation, Thomas Sweatt was identified as the serial arsonist responsible for committing more than 40 arsons in Prince George's County, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia over a two-year period. In June 2005, Sweatt pleaded guilty to possession of destructive devices, destruction of buildings by fire resulting in personal injury, possession of destructive devices in furtherance of a crime of violence, first degree premeditated murder (felony murder), and second degree murder arising from his commission of 45 arsons, including two in the District of Columbia which resulted in deaths.

On September 12, 2005, Sweatt was sentenced to life in prison. The investigation was conducted by the Serial Arson Task Force, comprised of the ATF, the District of Columbia Fire/EMS Department, the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Prince George's County Police Department, the Maryland State Fire Marshals Office, the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, the Montgomery County Police Department, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, the Maryland State Police, the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, the Alexandria Fire Department, the Howard County Fire Department, the Howard County Police Department, the Arlington County Fire Department, and the Baltimore City Fire Department. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service also provided valuable assistance.

U.S. v. PATRICK WALSH, ET AL.

In January and April 2005, indictments were returned charging five defendants with committing the December 2004 arsons at the Hunters' Brooke Development in Charles County, Maryland, the largest residential arson in Maryland's history. In August 2005, Patrick Walsh, the ringleader of the group, was convicted and was later sentenced to 19 years and 7 months in prison. Two other defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 7 years and 3 months and 8

years and 4 months in prison, respectively. The trial of the remaining two defendants, Roy McCann and Michael Everhart, are scheduled for February 2006. The ATF and the FBI were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. NAKIE HARRIS, ET AL.

On January 15, 2005, members of the Bloods gang used “Molotov Cocktails” to firebomb the home of a woman in the Harwood community of Baltimore City to prevent her from providing information to law enforcement about drug trafficking in her neighborhood. A total of eight defendants were indicted on charges that included conspiracy to commit witness tampering, witness tampering by attempted murder, and use of firearms in a crime of violence. Three defendants – Nakie Harris, Richard Royal, and Terrence Smith – were convicted at trial in December 2005. Four other defendants pleaded guilty before trial. Charges against the eighth defendant are pending. Harris and Royal were each sentenced to terms of 60 years in prison, while Smith was later sentenced to a term of 80 years in prison. The ATF, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Baltimore City Fire Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

CARJACKING/ROBBERY

U.S. v. KENDALL ALEXANDER, SR., ET AL.

On August 10, 2005, Kendall Alexander, Sr. and his son, Kendall Alexander, Jr., committed an armed robbery of the Wachovia Bank located at 1726 East Northern Parkway, in Baltimore. Alexander, Sr. fired an assault weapon during the course of the robbery.

On August 30, 2005, a federal grand jury indicted Alexander, Sr. and Alexander, Jr. on charges of conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery, armed bank robbery, and use of a firearm during a crime of violence. Alexander, Sr. was also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Alexander, Jr. was arrested on September 1, 2005, but his father remained a fugitive. On September 17, 2005, Alexander, Sr. returned to the Wachovia Bank located at 1726 East Northern Parkway in Baltimore City, this time armed with a revolver. Alexander, Sr. robbed the bank and fled to North Carolina. After being featured on *America's Most Wanted* and becoming concerned that he would be apprehended, Alexander, Sr. left North Carolina and sought the assistance of a relative, Marc Munford, who helped Alexander, Sr. secure a hotel room in the Baltimore area to hide from the police. Alexander, Sr. was apprehended the next day.

Superseding indictments were filed on September 13, 2005 and November 1, 2005, adding additional charges and defendants, including both Munford and Earl Mills, Jr., the getaway driver who transported the Alexanders both to and from the bank. On November 18, 2005, Alexander, Jr. pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm during a crime of violence. He faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison. Earl Mills, Jr., the getaway driver, later pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact. Munford pleaded guilty to harboring a fugitive. In January 2006, Alexander, Sr. pleaded guilty to armed bank robbery and has agreed

to a sentence of 27 years in prison. The case was investigated by the FBI's Bank Robbery Task Force, which is comprised of FBI Special Agents and Detectives from the Baltimore Police Department and the Baltimore County Police Department.

U.S. v. ROLAND CANN

Between December 2002 and January 2003, Roland Cann committed two carjackings and four robberies of drug stores and auto parts stores, brandishing a firearm in each robbery and sometimes also robbing store employees and customers. Cann pleaded guilty to brandishing a firearm in connection with a crime of violence and was sentenced on July 15, 2005 to 19 years and 7 months in prison. The FBI was the lead agency in this investigation.

U.S. v. TREMAINE ELLIS

Tremaine Ellis was the ring leader in a series of six violent 7-11 robberies in Baltimore in June 2003. Ellis planned the robberies by selecting the locations and brandished a firearm in most of them. On November 1, 2004, Ellis pleaded guilty to charges arising from this string of robberies and, on February 7, 2005, he was sentenced to 11½ years in prison.

U.S. v. JAMAAL WALKER, ET AL.

On April 16, 2003, Jamaal Walker, Jeremiah Poole, and two others carjacked a victim in Northeast Baltimore, with one of the co-conspirators using a semi-automatic assault rifle to force the victim from the vehicle. The carjackers drove the victim to Baltimore County, where he was forced from his car at gunpoint and ordered to disrobe. Poole shot the victim in the back, and the carjackers then left the area in the victim's car. On January 25, 2005, a federal jury convicted Walker of carjacking and using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. On April 15, 2005, Walker was sentenced to 21 years and 3 months in prison. Poole pleaded guilty before trial and was sentenced in June 2005 to 17 years and 7 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

MURDER/RELATED OFFENSES

U.S. v. RONALD CAMPBELL, ET AL.

In February 2005, Ronald Campbell and Damon Gaither pleaded guilty to charges arising from their participation in a murder that occurred during a robbery of drug dealers in Baltimore County. Campbell was sentenced to 25 years in prison. On June 1, 2005, Gaither was sentenced to 23 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JAMES ALLEN IRBY

On March 28, 2003, James Irby entered the home of Terrence Deadwyler, shot

Deadwyler three times, stabbed him 174 times, and then set fire to his apartment, all in retaliation for Deadwyler's cooperation with an ATF investigation in Washington, D.C. Later, Irby was captured on audiotape bragging about the murder. Irby was charged in October 2003 with murder in retaliation against a witness, arson, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. In November 2005, Irby was convicted at trial of second-degree retaliatory murder, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, and arson. Irby was later sentenced to 38 years in prison. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. KENNETH LIGHTY, ET AL.

On January 3, 2002, Kenneth Lighty, Lorenzo Wilson, and James Flood III kidnapped Eric Hayes, a drug dealer who was also the son of a Metropolitan Police Department officer, in Washington, D.C. by forcing Hayes at gunpoint into their car. They then transported Hayes to Prince George's County, Maryland. The defendants pistol-whipped Hayes and shot him several times in the face, head, and limbs before dumping his body near a residential street in Temple Hills, Maryland. Lighty was on probation for a drug offense and on bond pending robbery charges in Prince George's County at the time of his involvement in this offense. In October 2003, Lighty, Wilson, and Flood were indicted by a federal grand jury and charged with kidnapping resulting in death, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, and three counts of using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. On April 8, 2005, a federal jury convicted Wilson of conspiracy to commit kidnapping. On October 21, 2005, a federal jury convicted Lighty and Flood of kidnapping and murder. Wilson and Flood were later sentenced to life in prison. Lighty received the death penalty. The FBI and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. RALPH MANNA

On August 18, 2005, a federal jury convicted Ralph Manna of solicitation to commit murder based on his efforts to hire a hitman to kill his ex-wife and son, who was an FBI agent, and later his daughter-in-law. At the time of the offense, Manna was serving a life sentence for killing an ex-wife's girlfriend and trying to shoot another girlfriend. On November 28, 2005, Manna was sentenced to 20 years in prison, to be served consecutively with his life sentence. The FBI and the Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. RUFUS MILLEGAN AND CORNELL MCCLURE

On May 1, 2001, Rufus Millegan and Cornell McClure picked up Tessa Osborne, then 19 years old, while she was on her way to work at a local supermarket and took her to a facility owned by the Department of Agriculture. Millegan and McClure attempted to press Osborne for information about a home invasion robbery by local drug dealers that had occurred several weeks earlier. Not satisfied with Osborne's answers to their questions, McClure and Millegan shot Osborne approximately 19 times while she attempted to run away. McClure and Millegan were arrested and charged with first degree murder, kidnapping, and possession of a firearm in

furtherance of a crime of violence. Millegan pleaded guilty to all counts in 2002 and was sentenced to life in prison. On February 3, 2005, McClure was convicted of all counts after a trial and, on May 16, 2005, was sentenced to life in prison. The FBI and the U.S. Park Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

WITNESS TAMPERING

We are committed to protecting witnesses and prosecuting those who would attempt to harm them. As these cases illustrate, we will use the full force of the federal and state criminal laws to pursue vigorously anyone who threatens, intimidates, or retaliates against any witness, and take them off the streets for as long as possible.

U.S. v. NAKIE HARRIS, ET AL.

See above.

U.S. v. JAMES ALLEN IRBY

See above.

U.S. v. DEANDRE WHITEHEAD

Whitehead was acquitted of murder charges in Baltimore after the city judge precluded the State from introducing taped conversations of Whitehead trying to hire someone to kill two of the eyewitnesses. There was no federal jurisdiction over the murder, but Whitehead was charged federally with solicitation to commit witness tampering. On April 14, 2005, Whitehead pleaded guilty to those charges, and on June 15, 2005, he was sentenced to 5 years and 10 months in prison. The DEA, the Maryland State Police, and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

FIREARMS/DRUG-TRAFFICKING

Any felon who possesses a gun – and any other person who possesses a gun in furtherance of drug-dealing or a violent crime – risks federal prosecution and faces a long prison term, with no parole, far from home. Here are just a few examples of the many defendants who learned that lesson the hard way in 2005.

U.S. v. WALLACE ALLEN

Wallace Allen was arrested in October 2003 following a domestic dispute during which he pointed a loaded gun at his then-girlfriend. Officers found Allen in the living room of the victim's residence in close proximity to a Colt six-shot revolver loaded with six rounds of Remington .38 SPL ammunition. Allen was on state probation at the time of his arrest. In June 2005, a federal jury convicted Allen of one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. In October 2005, Allen was sentenced to a term of 19 years and 7 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MONTRELL BABB

On August 14, 2003, Montrell Babb was arrested for firearms and narcotic violations. On October 23, 2003, he was indicted federally and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession with intent to distribute narcotics, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. Babb was subsequently convicted and, on January 14, 2005, he was sentenced to a term of 8 years and 1 month in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. HARRY BURTON

On August 8, 2003, Harry Burton was arrested for illegal possession of a handgun. The arrest was the result of a probation violation. On September 2, 2003, Burton was indicted federally and charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was subsequently convicted and, on February 22, 2005, he was sentenced to a term of 10 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ROBERT BUTLER

In May 2003, Baltimore County police officers executed a search and seizure warrant at Robert Butler's residence and seized approximately 122 grams of crack cocaine, digital scales, various drug packaging paraphernalia, and two firearms. Butler later pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and, on March 1, 2005, Butler was sentenced to 19 years and 7 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. RAUL CASTILLO-RAMOS

In November 2004, a federal jury convicted Raul Castillo-Ramos of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and carrying a firearm in relation to a drug-trafficking offense based on his participation in approximately five drug transactions between April and August 2003. On February 2, 2005, Castillo-Ramos was sentenced to 40 years in prison. The ATF was the lead agency in this investigation.

U.S. v. WILLIAM ENGLISH

On July 25, 2004, William English was found to be in possession of a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol after a Baltimore police officer observed him engage in a suspected drug transaction. On December 12, 2005, English pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was later sentenced to 15 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DANTE JACKSON

On March 24, 2003, Dante Jackson was arrested for illegal possession of firearms and narcotics. At the time of his arrest, Jackson possessed two 9-millimeter pistols and a quantity of heroin. On October 29, 2003, Jackson was federally indicted and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. Jackson subsequently pleaded guilty and, on April 27, 2005, he was sentenced to a term of 15 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. WILLIAM KING AND ANTONIO MURRAY

On May 11, 2005, a federal grand jury returned a five-count indictment charging Baltimore police officers William King and Antonio Murray with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery and extortion; conspiracy to distribute cocaine, heroin, and marijuana; and carrying firearms while trafficking drugs and committing robbery and extortion. On November 10, 2005, a 33-count superseding indictment was filed charging King and Murray with additional counts of robbery, possession of firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence and drug trafficking, and possession with intent to distribute heroin, crack cocaine, and marijuana.

The indictments allege that from August 2004 until May 2005, King and Murray conspired to obtain by robbery and extortion cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, and proceeds from the sales of such narcotics. King and Murray allegedly used their police powers, while armed with their issued service pistols, to detain drug traffickers inside police vehicles and on the streets of Baltimore. King and Murray are alleged to have taken the drugs and drug proceeds from the drug traffickers through threats of force, arrest, and prosecution. They would release the drug traffickers without any resulting charges or prosecution and split proceeds of the

illegal seizures from the drug traffickers. The defendants also sold drugs seized from the drug traffickers, thereafter splitting the proceeds.

Among other charges, King faces eight counts of interference with commerce by robbery and extortion and 14 counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime or crime of violence. Murray was charged with five counts of interference with commerce by robbery and extortion and seven counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime or crime of violence. These charges are pending. The FBI was the lead agency in this investigation.

U.S. v. IAN McDONALD

Ian McDonald was arrested in the early morning hours of October 21, 2004, after police found a loaded 9-millimeter handgun on the front seat of his car. At the time of his arrest, McDonald was in possession of less than five grams of crack cocaine and a small quantity of marijuana. On October 26, 2005, a federal jury convicted McDonald of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime, and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. McDonald was later sentenced to 20 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DEONE MELVIN, ET AL.

From 1997 through 2003, Deone Melvin, Ramone Jones, Stephon Mason, and others used numerous vehicles equipped with sophisticated hidden compartments to transport hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from New York to the Maryland-Washington, D.C. area, which they then redistributed to customers locally. The defendants also laundered their drug proceeds by purchasing expensive cars and by titling various vehicles in the names of others. Numerous guns were seized from co-conspirators' homes and vehicles during the investigation. On June 23, 2005, following a trial, Deone Melvin, Ramone Jones, and Stephon Mason were convicted of conspiracy to distribute cocaine, conspiracy to engage in money laundering, money laundering, possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking, and possession of firearms by a convicted felon. Adrian Alexander was also convicted of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. On September 26, 2005, the defendants were sentenced as follows: Melvin received 45 years in prison, Jones received 30 years in prison, Mason received life plus five years in prison, and Alexander received 24 years and 7 months in prison. Eleven other defendants pleaded guilty to charges arising from their participation in this conspiracy. The DEA and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JERMAINE MOBLEY

Jermaine Mobley was arrested on January 27, 2005 after Baltimore police officers observed him in possession of heroin, and following a pursuit and struggle in which Mobley attempted to grab an officer's gun hand. On October 21, 2005, Mobley pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute heroin and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and was later sentenced to 12 years and 7 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. EDWIN MURRAY AND GREGORY WILSON

On February 17, 2004, a federal jury convicted Gregory Wilson and Edwin Murray of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm. The evidence at trial showed that from September 2002 to July 2003, these defendants and several co-conspirators operated a crack cocaine-distribution network based in the Randallstown area of Baltimore County, from which they distributed crack cocaine throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. The defendants used the proceeds of their drug business to operate a record company called "Big Business Records LLC." On April 12, 2005, Wilson was sentenced to 25 years in prison. On May 10, 2005, Murray was also sentenced to 25 years in prison. The DEA, ICE, the Baltimore County Police Department, the Baltimore Police Department, the Maryland State Police, and the Howard County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DARRYL MUSE

On January 29, 2003, Darryl Muse was arrested in possession of a .22-caliber Beretta semiautomatic pistol. On May 29, 2003, Muse was indicted federally on felon-in-possession charges. Muse subsequently pleaded guilty and, on February 16, 2005, he was sentenced to a term of 15 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JOHN PROCTOR

On April 8, 2005, John Proctor was sentenced to 27 years in prison following his guilty plea to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. On multiple occasions, Proctor sold crack cocaine to a confidential informant. A subsequent search warrant at Proctor's residence resulted in the seizure of more than 112 grams of crack cocaine, a scale, more than \$4,000 in cash, several firearms, ammunition, and two body armor vests. The FBI and the ATF were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DWAYNE SANTOS

On May 19, 2005, Dwayne Santos was sentenced to 14 years in prison following his guilty plea to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Two of Santos' co-defendants, Keith Solomon and Maurice Solomon, received sentences of 19 years and 7 months and 10 years and 3 months in prison, respectively, for conspiracy to distribute cocaine

and crack cocaine. The defendants were arrested after engaging in a series of drug transactions in the vicinity of the Somerset Housing Project in East Baltimore between January 2003 and January 2004. The DEA was the lead agency in this investigation.

U.S. v. JAMES SWEETS

On September 28, 2005, James Sweets was convicted of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking. Three co-defendants pleaded guilty before trial. The charges arose from the defendants' participation in a conspiracy from 2000 to May 2004 that distributed cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and other controlled substances from various locations in Baltimore and Germantown, Maryland. Sweets and his co-conspirators possessed a wide array of firearms, which they used to protect their drug supply and proceeds. In addition, the co-conspirators participated in several robberies, shootings, and other drug-related crimes of violence in Baltimore. On December 21, 2005, Sweets was sentenced to 30 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DEXTER TYSON

On October 13, 2005, a federal jury convicted Dexter Tyson of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime, possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, and possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. Tyson was sentenced in January 2006 to life plus five years in prison. The DEA and the Anne Arundel County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. BRYANT WARREN, ET AL.

From 2004 through in or about March 2005, Bryant Warren, Germaine Wallace, William Manns, and others conspired to distribute heroin at a variety of locations in Baltimore. On June 7, 2005, Warren, Wallace, and Manns were indicted on drug conspiracy charges. In addition, Manns was charged with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense, and Manns and Wallace were both charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. A superseding indictment was filed on August 23, 2005.

On September 27, 2005, Wallace pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute heroin and was later sentenced to 21 years and 10 months in prison. On September 28, 2005, Manns also pleaded guilty to heroin conspiracy charges and was later sentenced to 15 years and 8 months in prison. On December 9, 2005, Warren pleaded guilty to heroin conspiracy charges and was later sentenced to 12 years and 7 months in prison. The DEA, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. CARLOS WATKINS

On February 10, 2005, following the execution of multiple search and seizure warrants at various Baltimore City locations, Carlos Watkins was arrested for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession with intent to distribute narcotics. On March 29, 2005, Watkins was federally indicted and charged with drug and gun offenses. He was subsequently convicted and sentenced to serve 17½ years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. FRANK WILLIAMS

Frank Williams was arrested with a .22-caliber pistol while selling what police officers believed to be counterfeit CDs and DVDs. In November 2004, Williams was convicted by a federal jury on a felon-in-possession charge. On April 6, 2005, he was sentenced to a term of 19 years and 7 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

VIOLENT CRIME PROSECUTION STATISTICS

As reflected in the chart below, in 2005 the U.S. Attorney's Office's Southern Division, which serves Prince George's, Montgomery, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties, filed 36 indictments charging a total of 45 defendants with firearms offenses. Firearms indictments represented approximately 21% of the total number of indictments filed in the Southern Division for 2005, and approximately 13% of the defendants charged in the Southern Division in 2005 were charged with firearms offenses.

The Office's Northern Division, which includes Baltimore City and the state's other counties, filed 148 indictments charging a total of 171 defendants with firearms offenses. Approximately 70% of those indictments and more than 70% of those defendants represented Baltimore City cases. Firearms indictments represented approximately 40% of the total number of indictments filed in the Northern Division for 2005, and approximately 32% of the defendants charged in the Northern Division in 2005 were charged with firearms offenses.

District-wide, a total of 184 indictments were filed charging a total of 216 defendants with firearms offenses. Approximately 34% of the indictments filed in the District of Maryland for 2005 were firearms indictments, and approximately 24% of the defendants charged in the District in 2005 were charged with firearms offenses.

**District of Maryland
2005 Firearms Indictments and Defendants**

Northern Division					
All Indictments	Firearms Indictments	Percentage of Firearms Indictments	All Defendants	Indicted Firearms Defendants	Percentage of Firearms Defendants
375	148	40%	539	171	32%
Southern Division					
169	36	21%	361	45	13%
District Totals					
544	184	34%	900	216	24%

VIOLENT CRIME STRATEGY

MARYLAND EXILE

Maryland EXILE is a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat gun crime that combines local, state, and federal law enforcement efforts; community action and revitalization; and public awareness. The success of the Maryland EXILE strategy depends upon meaningful partnerships among law enforcement, neighborhood residents, community activists, educators, and civic organizations.

The Maryland EXILE partners include the State's Attorneys' Offices, local Police Departments, the Division of Parole and Probation of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Maryland Parole/Probation), the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland, the ATF, the High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA), the DEA, the FBI, ICE, and the United States Marshals Service.

The components of the Maryland EXILE law enforcement strategy are designed to focus law enforcement resources on the most violent individuals and most violent geographic areas in Baltimore and to achieve the goal of arresting and detaining violent offenders as quickly as possible while also ensuring that violent organizations and groups are permanently dismantled.

The fundamental principle of Maryland EXILE is that ***any felon who carries a gun in Maryland is going to jail.*** By successfully executing the Maryland EXILE strategy, we will empower law-abiding citizens to rid their neighborhoods of criminals who spread violence and despair and to reclaim their communities.



The primary components of the Maryland EXILE strategy are as follows:

- coordinating state and federal prosecutions of firearms cases;
- pursuing gangs and the most violent repeat offenders;
- stopping the illegal trafficking of firearms;
- providing training and support for law enforcement agencies;
- protecting citizens who assist in law enforcement investigations;
- conducting community outreach and public awareness; and
- ensuring accountability among all of the Maryland EXILE partners.

Coordinating state and federal prosecution of firearms cases

State prosecutors and local police officers are on the front lines in the fight against violent crime. The vast majority of Maryland EXILE cases will continue to be prosecuted by the State's Attorney's Offices. However, under Maryland EXILE, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland will use its federal resources to support the mission of our state prosecutors and local police by prosecuting as many high-impact firearms cases as possible.

Proactively pursuing gangs and the community's most violent repeat offenders

Maryland EXILE's team of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies is committed to working proactively to identify the community's most violent offenders and to devise strategies for getting them off the streets as quickly and effectively as possible. To

accomplish this goal, we have begun implementing the Violent Repeat Offender (VRO) program in Baltimore City and will soon be implementing that program in Prince George's County.

Under the VRO program, the Baltimore Police Department provides the U.S. Attorney's Office and the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City with a list of some of the most violent individuals in the city – individuals who belong to violent gangs or organizations operating in Baltimore and individuals who have been charged with, or are suspects in, shootings and murders. Some of these individuals have pending state gun, drug, or violent crime cases. Many are in violation of their parole or probation. Others have no pending charges but have lengthy and disturbing criminal histories. The Baltimore Police Department provides background materials regarding each VRO, including police reports, search warrants, and parole/probation information. Representatives of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore Police Department, Maryland Parole/Probation, ATF, HIDTA, DEA, FBI, and ICE devise a strategy for getting each of the VROs off the streets for as long as possible. The team then meets regularly to monitor the progress of each investigation of an existing VRO target and to determine the most effective strategy for arresting and detaining newly identified VROs.

Stopping the illegal trafficking of firearms

The Maryland EXILE initiative is committed to addressing the problem of illegal firearms possession by going after not just the felons who possess guns, but also those who supply them or help make them available. Under Maryland EXILE, firearms dealers who break the law will pay the price. In addition, friends, girlfriends, family members, or any other individuals who act as straw purchasers will face the same consequences as the felons they are helping – arrest, prosecution, and jail.

Training, support and information sharing among law enforcement agencies

Federal and state prosecutors will provide training to all law enforcement officers. These training programs will focus on legal and investigative issues that arise in firearms cases, with the goal of improving the quality of all such cases and increasing the likelihood of successful state and federal prosecutions.

Protecting citizens who assist in law enforcement investigations

The communities of Maryland must be safe for honest, law-abiding citizens. Accordingly, any efforts to threaten or intimidate witnesses will not be tolerated. Maryland EXILE's team of federal, state, and local agencies is committed to protecting witnesses, and we will continue to use the full force of the federal and state criminal laws to pursue vigorously anyone who threatens, intimidates, or retaliates against any witness.

Conducting community outreach and public awareness

Taking back our neighborhoods and communities requires more than effective law enforcement. As a result, Maryland EXILE will emphasize community action and neighborhood renewal projects. Armed criminals are not just a police problem; they are the community's problem as well. Only through concerted action by the entire community can we stem the rising tide of violent crime and make a lasting, long-term impact.

Maryland EXILE will help to initiate and fund community revitalization projects in certain neighborhoods that have been hit most severely by violent crime. The initiative will also work with local police departments to promote and expand the use of neighborhood watch programs and other types of activities designed to empower residents to take back control of their streets from drug dealers and other criminals.

In order to achieve lasting change, we must communicate the goals of Maryland EXILE to our youth. Maryland EXILE partner agencies will send representatives to high schools and middle schools to promote the goals of the program and to encourage students to help end the cycle of gun crime and violence in their communities. If you are interested in having a Maryland Exile representative speak to your youth or community group, please contact Steve Hess at (410) 209-4930 or Troy Williams at (410) 209-4940.

Finally, Maryland EXILE will include a campaign to encourage citizens to report gun crime to police. An EXILE Tipline, (410) 685-GUNS, has been established in Baltimore City to make it easier for residents to report information about guns and drugs to law enforcement anonymously.

Ensuring accountability among all of the Maryland EXILE partners

Representatives of the partner agencies will meet on approximately a monthly basis to monitor the Maryland EXILE initiatives, and the principals of those agencies will meet quarterly to review the progress of all aspects of the program.

To read the Maryland EXILE strategies for Baltimore City and Prince George's County, please visit www.usdoj.gov/usao/md.

GANG STRATEGY

Whether it's the street-level drug gangs that infect neighborhoods in Baltimore City or the more organized gangs such as MS-13 or the Bloods, gang violence terrorizes communities, makes innocent people feel unsafe in their own neighborhoods, and destroys the lives – and steals the futures – of our children.

To stem the rising tide of gang violence and to make our streets and neighborhoods safe again, the U.S. Attorney's Office has developed an anti-gang strategy and has been coordinating a combined federal, state, and local law enforcement effort to dismantle gangs.

The U.S. Attorney's Office uses every available federal law enforcement tool to prosecute violent gang members, including the federal racketeering statute and conspiracy laws. Pursuing violent gangs is one of the centerpieces of the Maryland Exile strategy. As part of Maryland Exile, teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers are targeting the most violent repeat offenders in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, many of whom are members or leaders of street-level drug crews or other gangs. These teams devise and execute specific strategies to get these most violent offenders – and their entire gangs – off the streets, and to keep them off the streets.

Prosecution is an essential part of our strategy. But our goal is not just to prosecute gang members – it is to deter gang violence and to prevent young people from joining gangs in the first place. For that reason, we will be joining forces with community groups, teachers, and churches and other faith-based organizations to spread the word to parents and kids that deciding to join – or remain in – a gang is a matter of life and death. We need to send the clear message that if you join or remain in a violent gang, you can wind up losing your life, or spending it in federal prison. We also want to do everything possible to teach parents, teachers, and religious leaders how to detect gang activities and membership so they can intervene to prevent kids from joining gangs and to rescue those who are looking for a way out.

We will seek advice and assistance from community leaders and church leaders in affected communities about how we can best employ our resources to empower citizens to take back their streets and to rescue children from gang violence.

In the Spring of 2006, the U.S. Attorney's Office will host a state-wide conference on gangs to bring together law enforcement officers, teachers, church leaders, community groups, and experts in the field to focus on the gang problem in our state and to identify ways we can both enhance our law enforcement activities and promote and expand our intervention and prevention efforts.